

Res Ameijeiras Efigenio
Res Roa, Raúl, Jr.

CUBA: C 1 A

Good-by, Cha-Cha-Cha

So long as Fidel Castro's ire was primarily directed at the CIA, the Organization of American States, or Communist China, there really wasn't very much he could do about it. But at last he has found a target within striking distance. The name of the crime is *dolce vita* and its perpetrators are old Castro friends. But no matter. With the zeal of a father venting his office frustrations on the kids at home, Fidel has lately rounded up dozens of his revolutionary offspring who are allegedly guilty of heavy drinking and high living. Branded as "vice-ridden and parasitic," they have been banished to the simple and cleansing life of a work farm.

The first to go was Efigenio Ameijeiras, an old Castro sidekick who was one of the twelve men who made it to the Sierra Maestra with The Maximum Leader in the early, desperate months of his struggle for power. Two weeks ago, Ameijeiras, 32, was stripped of his major's rank in the army, dismissed as vice minister of the armed forces and bounced out of the policymaking Central Committee of the Cuban Communist Party. His crime: "Activities contrary to revolutionary morals."

Grounded: Last week came the turn of Raúl Roa Jr., son of the Cuban Foreign Minister. Young Roa, who was accused of "illegal and immoral activities," has not yet been arrested, but he has been deprived of his job as a traveling representative of the Cuban Ministry of Foreign Trade.

As usual, of course, Fidel is convinced that sinister foreign influences lie behind his troubles. All Cuban personnel serving abroad, he recently announced, will be carefully screened and forbidden to accept any gifts. In addition, invitations to social events in foreign embassies in Havana will henceforth be channeled through a government protocol office to decide which Cuban officials are austere enough to attend safely. "Several capitalistic embassies," said Castro, "like to invite officials of an evident corruptible nature." Apparently determined to take the cha-cha-cha out of Communism in Cuba, Castro vowed to end "this contact with bourgeois capitalist elements." But, he added reassuringly, "we will end it without violence, without so much as killing a fly."